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GCSE MATHS

Algebra

Edexcel 1MA1 | Subtopic collection Topic 15

Laws of indices in algebra

Foundation tier

Answers and examiner comments

9	2010-2022	Foundation
question groups	available papers	tier

Using this booklet

1. Answer numbers match the companion question booklet.
2. Follow the original question number on marking tables.
3. Examiner comments are included where available.

Name _____ **Date** _____

Some entries use full source marking material in an appendix. Any unavailable mark schemes are identified beside the relevant answer.

14	(a)		$6m$	1	B1 cao
	(b)		x^{12}	1	B1 for x^{12} or x^{7+5}
	(c)		$y(3y+2)$	1	B1 cao

5MB2F_01

5MB2F/01				
Question	**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
15	$3600 \times 4 = 14400$ $\frac{2}{5} = 40\%$ $\frac{1}{4} = 25\%$ $30 + 40 + 25 = 95\%$ Saved 5% 10% of 14400 = 1440 5% of $1440 = 1440 \div 2$	£720	5	M1 3600 × 4 (=14400) B1 for $\frac{2}{5} = 40\%$ **or** $\frac{1}{4} = 25\%$ M1 for 30% + 40% + 50% (=95%) M1 for complete method to find 5% of 14400 A1 cao **OR** M1 for 3600 × 4 (=14400) B1 for 30% = $^{3}/_{10}$ M1 for $\frac{3}{10}+\frac{2}{5}+\frac{1}{4}$ $\left(=\frac{19}{10}\right)$ oe M1 for complete method to find $\frac{1}{20}$ of 14400 A1 cao **OR** M1 3600 × 4 (=14400) M1 for 0.3×14400 oe $(=4320)$ M1 for $\frac{2}{5}\times14400$ oe $(=5760)$ M1 $14400-3600-4320-5760$ A1 cao SC if no other marks award M1 for 0.3 x 3600 (=1080) M1 for $\frac{2}{5}$ ×3600 (=1440)

5MB2F_01

Original question 23

The full source mark scheme begins on page 19. Use the original paper code, tier and question number shown above.

16	(a)		$5m + 10$	1	B1 cao
	(b)		$y(y + 3)$	1	B1 cao
	(c)		a^9	1	B1 cao

PAPER: 5MB2F_01

12	(a)		ab	1	B1 for ab oe
	(b)		$3x^2$	1	B1 for $3x^2$ oe
	(c)		$4x - 5y$	2	M1 for $3x + x$ (=$4x$) or $-2y - 3y$ (= $-5y$) A1 cao

17	(a)		$6xy\ (1 + 3y)$	2	M1 for correct expression with at least one factor extracted or $6xy$ (linear expression in y) A1 cao
	(b)		w^3	1	B1 cao
	(c)		a^{20}	1	B1 cao

5MB2F/01 June 2015

PAPER: 1MA0_2F

Question		Working	Answer	Mark	Notes
25	(a)		n^2	1	B1 cao
	(b)		a^7	1	B1 cao
*26			No not enough	5	M1 for substituting into Pythagoras' theorem M1 for complete correct use of Pythagoras' theorem M1 for a complete method to find the perimeter of the trapezium A1 51.(20655..) C1 (dep on first two Ms) for correct conclusion dependent upon supporting calculations
*27			125m*l*	4	M1 for a complete method to find the cost per m*l* or the number of m*l* per £1 for one tube or for a method that results in at least two values that can be used to compare two tubes M1 for a complete method to find all three equivalent figures A1 3 correct figures suitable for comparison C1(dep on M2) for stating the correct tube size from their calculations

Q27	Per 25ml	Per ml	Per £
50ml	54.5	2.18	45.87155...
75ml	56	2.24	44.64285...
125ml	53.8	2.152	46.46840...

Modifications to the mark scheme for Modified Large Print (MLP) papers.

Only mark scheme amendments are shown where the enlargement or modification of the paper requires a change in the mark scheme.

The following tolerances should be accepted on marking MLP papers, unless otherwise stated below:
Angles: ±5°
Measurements of length: ±5 mm

PAPER: 1MA0_2F			
Question		**Modification**	**Notes**
Q01		Models are provided for all candidates. Diagram also provided for MLP	
Q03		Wording added: "There are two spaces to fill."	
Q04	(a)	MLP only: x changed to y Diagram is enlarged. Wording added: "There are two spaces to fill."	
Q05	(c)	MLP only: x changed to y.	
Q06		Grid enlarged. Last 3 columns removed.	
Q07		Patterns placed vertically with the start of no. 4 put below no.3. Wording changed. "Pattern number 4 has been started below pattern number 3. Complete pattern number 4."	
Q08	(a)	Diagrams enlarged Dotty shading added	
Q09		"Local gas" row removed.	

PAPER: 1MA0_2F			
Question		**Modification**	**Notes**
Q14	(a)	Line given is 10 cm.	
Q14	(b)	Base line of 6 cm given.	
Q15		MLP only: g changed to f.	
Q17		Outline and wheels of bus given. "Bus" written inside. Dashed line from man's head over to bus – labelled "height of man." Dashed line from top of bus stretching to the right and labelled "height of bus." "ground" labelled. Diagram enlarged.	
Q18		Diagram enlarged, measurement arrows removed.	
Q20	(a)	Diagram is enlarged.	
Q20	(b)	Transformation drawn on diagram. Wording changed: "The diagram shows triangle P and triangle Q on a grid. Describe the single transformation that maps triangle P on to triangle Q." Diagram enlarged. Answer lines added.	
Q22		Grid enlarged. Crosses changed to filled in circles. Right axis labelled.	
Q25	(b)	All candidates: a changed to y.	
Q26		Diagram enlarged and labelled ABCD. Measurement lines removed. Information given in text.	
Q27		Diagram removed.	

14	(a)		$4a$	1	B1 cao
	(b)		$6m$	1	B1 cao
	(c)		$3x^2$	1	B1 cao
	(d)		$7cd$	1	B1 cao
*15			Yes (supported)	4	M1 for attempt to divide corresponding sides eg 500 ÷ 50 (= 10) or 250 ÷ 50 (= 5) or 200 ÷ 50 (= 4) M1 (dep) multiplying divisors eg "10" × "5" × "4" (= 200) [consistent units] M1 for use of 3 containers eg "200" × 3 (= 600) or use of 500 boxes eg 500 ÷ "200" (=2.5) C1 for yes and 600 (boxes) or 2.5 (containers) oe OR M1 for attempt to find the volume, eg 500 × 250 × 200 (= 25 000 000) or 50 × 50 × 50 (=125 000) M1 (dep) for dividing volumes [consistent units] eg "25 000 000" ÷ "125 000" (=200) or "125 000" × 500 (=62 500 000) M1 for use of 3 containers eg "25 000 000" × 3 (=75 000 000) or "200" × 3 (=600) or use of 500 boxes eg for "125 000" × 500 (= 62 500 000) and "25 000 000" × 3 (= 75 000 000) or 500 ÷ "200" (=2.5) C1 for yes and 600 (boxes) or 2.5 (containers) or 62 500 000 and 75 000 000 oe

PAPER: 5MB2F/01

Question	Answer	Mark	Mark scheme	Additional guidance
26 (a)	p^{10}	B1	cao	
(b)	$2x^4y^2$	M1	for any two of $12 \div 6$ (= 2), x^{7-3} (= x^4), y^{3-1} (= y^2) in a product or written as a fraction with complete and correct cancelling of at least two terms	
		A1	cao	

21	(a)	x^{15}	B1	cao	
	(b)	$40 - 10x$	M1	for method to expand one bracket or collect like terms, eg $4 \times x + 4 \times 3$ $(= 4x + 12)$ **or** $7 \times 4 - 7 \times 2x$ $(= 28 - 14x)$ **or** $4 \times x - 7 \times 2x$ $(= 4x - 14x)$ **and** $4 \times 3 + 7 \times 4$ $(= 12 + 28)$	
			A1	oe	
	(c)	$3x^2(5x + y)$	M1	for $3(5x^3 + x^2y)$ **or** $x(15x^2 + 3xy)$ **or** $3x(5x^2 + xy)$ **or** $x^2(15x + 3y)$ **or** $3x^2(ax + by)$	Where $a \geq 1$ and $b \geq 1$
			A1	cao	

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edexcel

Mark Scheme (Results)

March 2013

GCSE Mathematics (Linear) 1MA0
Foundation (Calculator) Paper 2F

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NOTES ON MARKING PRINCIPLES

1 All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.

2 Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.

3 All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.

4 Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.

5 Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

6 Mark schemes will indicate within the table where, and which strands of QWC, are being assessed. The strands are as follows:

i) *ensure that text is legible and that spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate so that meaning is clear*
Comprehension and meaning is clear by using correct notation and labeling conventions.

ii) *select and use a form and style of writing appropriate to purpose and to complex subject matter*
Reasoning, explanation or argument is correct and appropriately structured to convey mathematical reasoning.

iii) *organise information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary when appropriate*.
The mathematical methods and processes used are coherently and clearly organised and the appropriate mathematical vocabulary used.

7 With working

If there is a wrong answer indicated on the answer line always check the working in the body of the script (and on any diagrams), and award any marks appropriate from the mark scheme.
If working is crossed out and still legible, then it should be given any appropriate marks, as long as it has not been replaced by alternative work.
If it is clear from the working that the "correct" answer has been obtained from incorrect working, award 0 marks. Send the response to review, and discuss each of these situations with your Team Leader.
If there is no answer on the answer line then check the working for an obvious answer.
Any case of suspected misread loses A (and B) marks on that part, but can gain the M marks. Discuss each of these situations with your Team Leader.
If there is a choice of methods shown, then no marks should be awarded, unless the answer on the answer line makes clear the method that has been used.

8 Follow through marks

Follow through marks which involve a single stage calculation can be awarded without working since you can check the answer yourself, but if ambiguous do not award.
Follow through marks which involve more than one stage of calculation can only be awarded on sight of the relevant working, even if it appears obvious that there is only one way you could get the answer given.

9 Ignoring subsequent work

It is appropriate to ignore subsequent work when the additional work does not change the answer in a way that is inappropriate for the question: e.g. incorrect cancelling of a fraction that would otherwise be correct
It is not appropriate to ignore subsequent work when the additional work essentially makes the answer incorrect e.g. algebra.
Transcription errors occur when candidates present a correct answer in working, and write it incorrectly on the answer line; mark the correct answer.

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10 Probability

Probability answers must be given a fractions, percentages or decimals. If a candidate gives a decimal equivalent to a probability, this should be written to at least 2 decimal places (unless tenths).
Incorrect notation should lose the accuracy marks, but be awarded any implied method marks.
If a probability answer is given on the answer line using both incorrect and correct notation, award the marks.
If a probability fraction is given then cancelled incorrectly, ignore the incorrectly cancelled answer.

11 Linear equations

Full marks can be gained if the solution alone is given on the answer line, or otherwise unambiguously indicated in working (without contradiction elsewhere). Where the correct solution only is shown substituted, but not identified as the solution, the accuracy mark is lost but any method marks can be awarded.

12 Parts of questions

Unless allowed by the mark scheme, the marks allocated to one part of the question CANNOT be awarded in another.

13 Range of answers

Unless otherwise stated, when an answer is given as a range (e.g 3.5 – 4.2) then this is inclusive of the end points (e.g 3.5, 4.2) and includes all numbers within the range (e.g 4, 4.1)

Guidance on the use of codes within this mark scheme
M1 – method mark A1 – accuracy mark B1 – Working mark C1 – communication mark QWC – quality of written communication oe – or equivalent cao – correct answer only ft – follow through sc – special case dep – dependent (on a previous mark or conclusion) indep – independent isw – ignore subsequent working

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
1	(a)		7025	1	B1 cao
	(b)		Nine thousand four hundred (and) fifty	1	B1 for Nine thousand four hundred (and) fifty Accept 'nine thousand' written as '9 thousand', 'four hundred' written as '4 hundred' and 'fifty' written as '5 tens' or any mixture of these. Do not penalise poor spelling.
	(c)		29	1	B1 for 29 or twenty nine or 29.0
	(d)		7000	1	B1 for 7000 or 7 thousand or seven thousand
2	(a)		8, 10	1	B1 cao
	(b)		24	1	B1 cao
	(c)		reason	1	B1 for a valid reason that demonstrates the understanding that the number of triangles is twice the pattern number
3	(a)		240	1	B1 for 240
	(b)		arrow at 125°C	1	B1 for arrow (or line) pointing within a range of 122.5 to 127.5 (ie nearer to 125 than either 120 or 130) Use professional judgement.
	(c)		6.05 (pm)	1	B1 for 6.05 (pm) oe

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
4	(a)		Thursday	1	B1 cao
	(b)		7	1	B1 cao
	*(c)		Nick	3	M1 for the intention to add Dave's 4 times or Nick's 4 times A1 for 58 and 64 C1 (dep on M1 and two totals) for clearly stating Nick as their answer or ft from their two totals OR M1 for the intention to find the difference between the times on each of the 4 days A1 for 6 or −6 C1 (dep on M1 and a net difference) for clearly stating Nick as their answer or ft from their difference [SC: B1 for "Nick spent 6 minutes more than Dave on his phone" if M0 scored.]
5			9 squares shaded	1	B1 for any 9 squares shaded oe
6			66	2	M1 for a correct method to find the number of people on the bus if the 15 get off first. (= 57) A1 cao OR M1 for a correct method to find the number of people on the bus if the 9 get on first. (= 81) A1 cao OR M1 for a correct method to find the net change in the number of people on the bus (= 6 or −6) A1 cao

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
7		20 − 6.65 13.35 ÷ 3	4.45	3	M1 for a correct method to find the amount shared by B, R and T M1 (dep) for a correct method of dividing this amount by 3 A1 cao [SC: B1 for an answer of 17.78 (20 – 6.65 ÷ 3), if M0 scored, with or without working]
8	(a)		3, 6, 9, 3	3	B3 for a table showing all 4 correct frequencies in the correct place. (condone the absence of or any incorrect tallies) [(B2 for 2 or 3 correct tallies or 2 or 3 correct frequencies even in the wrong columns) (B1 for 1 correct tally or 1 correct frequency even in the wrong column)] [SC: B2 for 3/21 and 6/21 and 9/21 and 3/21 shown in the frequency column]
	(b)		3	1	B1 for 3 or ft table in (a)
9			Circle radius 5 cm drawn	1	B1 for a circle of radius 5 cm drawn (condone an alternative centre)

PMT

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
10	(i)		5,15 or 5,125 or 15,125 or 30,50 or 30,60 or 30,90 or 30,100 or 50,60 or 50,90 or 50,100 or 60,90 or 60,100 or 90,100	4	B1 for 2 numbers, from the list, whose sum is an even number.
	(ii)		60 or 100		B1 for 60 or 100 or both
	(iii)		5 or 15		B1 for 5 or 15 or both
	(iv)		125		B1 cao
11		9.39 × 10 24.30 × 3 + 9.39 93.90 − 82.29	£11.61	5	M1 for a correct method to find the most expensive way to buy the 10 cartridges (= 93.90) M1 for a correct method to find the least expensive way to buy the 10 cartridges (= 82.29) M1 (dep on M1 scored) for a correct method to find the difference between their least and their most expensive way, provided that both totals are for the cost of exactly 10 cartridges A1 for 11.61 B1 (indep) for correct units

PMT

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
12	(a)(i)		B and D	2	B1 cao
	(ii)		G and E		B1 for G and E (allow B and D if not in (i))
	(b)	3 + 3 + 3 + 2 + 2 +1 + 1 + 1	16	1	B1 cao
13	(a)		6am	1	B1 for 6am (accept −4) Do not accept 6 alone.
	(b)		3	1	B1 for 3 (allow − 3)
	(c)	−1−5	−6	2	M1 for −1 − 5 or intention to subtract 5 from -1 (may be shown on a diagram) A1 cao

PMT

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
*14			Yes + supporting work	4	M1 for adding the weights of all the ingredients (= 96) M1 (dep) for '96' × 8 A1 cao for 768 C1 (dep on M2), ft for a correct conclusion (yes or no) from a comparison of 750 (pots) with their '768' pots; units must be quoted [SC: B1 for 768 seen without working if M0M0 scored] **OR** M1 for adding the weights of all the ingredients (= 96) M1 for 750 ÷ 8 A1 cao for 93.75 C1(dep on M2), ft for a correct conclusion (yes or no) from a comparison of their weight of ingredients in one tank full '93.75' kg with '96' kg; units must be quoted [SC: B1 for 93.75 seen without working if M0M0 scored]] **OR** M1 for adding the weights of all the ingredients (= 96) M1 (dep) for 750 ÷ '96' A1 cao for 7.8125 C1(dep on M2), ft for a correct conclusion (yes or no) from a comparison of their number of pots, '7.8125' pots with 8 (pots); units must be quoted [SC: B1 for 7.8125 seen without working if M0M0 scored]]
15			85 29 54 **168** **93** 31 47 171 13 5 **9** **27** 191 **65** **110** 366	3	B3 for fully correct table (B2 for 3 or 4 or 5 correct entries, B1 for 1 or 2 correct entries)

PMT

1MA0_1F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
16	(a)(i)		5	3	B1 cao
	(ii)		8		B1 cao
	(iii)		5		B1 cao
	(b)		correct sketch	2	B2 for fully correct sketch [B1 for a square (or rectangle) drawn with 2 or 3 connecting triangles on the outside of the square]
17	(a)(i)		12.978(61279…)	2	B1 for 12.978(…..)
	(ii)		13		B1 for 13 or ft from a(i) [Note: An answer of 13.0 gets B0]
	(b)		100000	1	B1 cao
18	(a)	$2 \times 8 = 16$ $16 + 7$	23	2	M1 for correct substitution of 8 into the expression $2f$ A1 cao
	(b)	$3 \times -2 + 5 \times 4$	14	2	M1 for correct substitution into the formula A1 cao

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
19	(a)		$\frac{40}{360}$	1	B1 for $\frac{40}{360}$ oe (ignore any incorrect simplification) Accept 0.11…. if no fraction shown
	(b)		4	3	M1 for a correct method to find the angle of the 'weeding' sector If measured, accept an angle between 138 and 142 inc. M1 (dep) for a correct method to find the number of degrees per hour (= 20) or the number of hours ($\frac{1}{20}$ (3 mins) per degree A1 cao for 4
20	(a)		2.5	2	M1 for 10 (cm) or "10" ÷ 4 A1 for 2.45 – 2.55
	(b)		A marked on diagram	2	M1 for a point marked (or line drawn) on a bearing of 038° from either point B or point W, OR for a point marked (or arc drawn) 6 cm from B A1 for the position of Avebury marked (accept without label if not ambiguous)

PMT

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
21	(a)		30	1	B1 for 30 minutes oe
	(b)		20	1	B1 cao
	(c)		graph completed	2	B1 for horizontal line from (5, 20) to (5.30, 20) B1 for a single straight line with the correct gradient from '(5.30, 20)' to the time axis
22	(a)		$x = 3$ drawn	1	B1 for $x = 3$ drawn [Note: each line drawn must be a single line segment satisfying $x = 3$]
	(b)		$y = x$ drawn	1	B1 for $y = x$ drawn [Note: each line drawn must be a single line segment satisfying $y = x$]
	(c)	Gradient = $\frac{3-0}{0--2}$	1.5	2	M1 for a method to find the gradient of the given line A1 for 1.5 oe
23	(a)		n^8	1	B1 for n^8 (accept n^{5+3})
	(b)		n^5	1	B1 for n^5 (accept n^{7-2})

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
24	(a)	15 ÷ 6	2.5	2	M1 for 15 ÷ 6 oe A1 for 2.5 or $2\frac{1}{2}$
	*(b)		Yes + evidence	2	M1 for a correct method to change 15 miles into kilometres C1(dep on M1) for 24 km **and** statement with correct conclusion [SC: B1 for "Yes" oe and 24 km shown if M0 scored] **OR** M1 for a correct method to change 20 kilometres into miles C1(dep on M1) for 12.5 miles **and** statement with correct conclusion [SC: B1 for "Yes" oe and 12.5 miles shown if M0 scored]

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
25			414.96	5	M1 for a correct method to work out the amount of oil required to fill the tank M1 for a correct method to find the cost of oil required before the discount M1 for a correct method of finding 5% of their calculated cost M1 (dep on previous M1) for a correct method to find the discounted cost A1 for correct answer of 414.96 or 41496p **OR** M1 for a correct method of finding 5% of the cost of 1 litre of oil M1 (dep on previous M1) for a correct method to find the discounted cost of 1 litre of oil M1 for a correct method to work out the amount of oil required to fill the tank M1 for a correct method to find the discounted cost of the oil required A1 for correct answer of 414.96 or 41496p **OR** M1 for a correct method to work out the amount of oil required to fill the tank M1 for a correct method of finding 5% of their calculated amount of oil M1 (dep on previous M1) for a correct method to find the reduced amount of oil M1 for a correct method to find the cost of the reduced amount of oil A1 for correct answer of 414.96 or 41496p

PMT

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
26	(a)	$1 - 0.2 - 0.1$ $0.7 \div 2$	0.35	3	M1 for correctly using total probability 1 or 100% if percentages used M1 (dep) for complete correct method to complete the solution A1 for 0.35 or 35% or $\frac{35}{100}$ oe
	(b)	0.1×200	20	2	M1 for 0.1×200 A1 cao [SC: B1 for an answer of $\frac{20}{200}$ if M0 scored]
27	(a)		$3x + 12$	1	B1 for $3x + 12$ or $12 + 3x$
	(b)		$x^3 + 2x$	2	M1 for the intention to multiply both terms in the bracket by x A1 for $x^3 + 2x$ OR B2 for $x^3 + 2x$ [B1 for x^3 or $2x$ seen]
	(c)		$x(x - 6)$	1	B1 for $x(x - 6)$ or $(x - 6)x$

PMT

1MA0_2F					
Question		**Working**	**Answer**	**Mark**	**Notes**
28			1180	3	M1 for a correct method to find the area of the cross section M1 (dep) for a complete correct method for the volume of the prism A1 cao OR M1 for a correct method to find the volume of one cuboid M1 (dep) for a complete correct method for the volume of the prism A1 cao

PMT

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Question 26

About a half of students taking this paper answered part (a) correctly to score 1 mark. Examiners saw the incorrect response "p^7" on many occasions.

About the same proportion of students scored at least one mark for their response to part (b) for giving a final answer which included at least two out of three correct components of the expression $2x^4y^2$.

Question 21

Part (a) of this question was not well answered with students displaying many misconceptions concerning powers. Many students added the powers instead of multiplying them or simply wrote $15x$ as the answer. Other common incorrect responses were 15, x^{-2} and 243.

Part (b) was well answered by students, with the vast majority scoring at least one mark and many scoring both the available marks. Those who were unable to reach the correct simplified answer of $40 - 10x$ were usually able to multiply the first bracket to obtain $4x + 12$. The order of the terms in the second bracket seemed to confuse some students and the negative $14x$ caused confusion with students not confident with negative numbers failing to simplify this to $-10x$. Students scored better when they fully expanded both brackets and then collected like terms together. An incorrect answer of $40 + 10x$ was common to see. Students would benefit from more exposure to questions with negative terms and questions where the x term is in different positions within the brackets given.

Students found the third part of this question challenging. With many displaying little understanding of extracting a common factor and just giving an answer with just one term. Some students did gain 1 mark for a partial factorisation often extracting 3 or $3x$. A common error seen was to assume that two brackets were needed and this approach obviously led to incorrect answers.

Students would benefit from understanding the meaning of 'factorise fully' as opposed to just extracting a single factor and also from being taught to look at their factorised expression and ensure it had no further common factors and that it multiples out to the original expression.